BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE

IN RE: DANNY RAY WILLS, M.D.

ORDER OF REVOCATION OF LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY

- 1. Danny Ray Wills, M.D. ("Dr. Wills") holds a license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of West Virginia, License No. 10582, issued originally in August, 1975, by the West Virginia Board of Medicine. Dr. Wills' address of record with the Board is in Princeton, West Virginia.
- 2. On August 27, 2009, Dr. Wills entered a plea of guilty in the United States District Court, Southern District of West Virginia, to one (1) count of acquiring and obtaining possession of a quantity of hydrocodone by misrepresentation, fraud, deception and subterfuge, ending May 5, 2009, 21 U.S.C. § 843(a)(3), in Case Number 1:09-CR-00159-01, <u>United States of America v. Danny Ray Wills.</u>
- 3. Thomas E. Johnston, Judge of the United States District Court, Southern District of West Virginia, stated at the Plea Hearing that "there is a basis in fact for the tendered plea" and confirmed that in the detailed Stipulation of Facts in the case in the files that were seized pursuant to the administrative warrant in this matter, "was correspondence between GIV, which is a company that provided the hydrocodone pills to Dr. Wills—between that company and Dr. Wills in January of 2009, indicated that GIV had, in fact, questioned Wills about his excessive or atypical hydrocodone orders. In response, Wills assured GIV that he was acquiring the hydrocodone to dispense to patients. He did not advise that he was taking any of the

hydrocodone himself." Plea Hearing Transcript, pp. 23-24, 26. Incorporated by reference herein is a copy of the Plea Hearing Transcript, Exhibit 1.

- 4. On December 17, 2009, Irene C. Berger, Judge of the United States District Court, Southern District of West Virginia, stated at the Sentencing Hearing that Dr. Wills, who was also the Sheriff of Mercer County, West Virginia, "ordered drugs, paid for them with funds that were specifically allotted to the sheriff's budget. There are factual statements contained in the pre-sentence report in addition that drugs were prescribed for at least one other individual, and the drugs were for the defendant's own personal use." Sentencing Hearing Tr., p. 11. Incorporated by reference herein is a copy of the Sentencing Hearing Transcript, Exhibit 2.
- 5. On December 17, 2009, Judge Berger further stated at the Sentencing Hearing that "there are, based on the calculations in the pre-sentence report, approximately 4,500 hydrocodone pills which were actually purchased. And most of those pills, almost 4,300 of them, 4,296 were unaccounted for. Based on the facts of the case, 31 of those could be traced to patients. There were 173, Mr. Wills, in your possession when the search was conducted. And, again, according to the facts contained in the report, there were 4,296 of them which could not be accounted for." Sentencing Hearing Tr. p. 16, Exhibit 2.
- 6. On December 17, 2009, Judge Berger imposed Judgment, and on January 5, 2010, Judge Berger entered Judgment in a Criminal Case whereby Dr. Wills was sentenced to six (6) months in prison and supervised release for a period of one (1) year following imprisonment, as well as payment of criminal monetary penalties.
- 7. Under the provisions of 21 U.S.C. § 843 (d) and 18 U.S.C. §3559(a)(5), a violation of 21 U.S.C. § 843(a)(3) is a felony.
 - 8. Under the provisions of West Virginia Code §30-3-14(d):

The board... shall revoke the license of any physician ... licensed ... within this state who, is found guilty by any court of competent jurisdiction of any felony involving prescribing, selling, administering, dispensing, mixing or otherwise preparing any prescription drug, including any controlled substance under state or federal law, for other than generally accepted therapeutic purposes. Presentation to the board of a certified copy of the guilty verdict or plea rendered in the court is sufficient proof thereof for the purposes of this article.

- 9. Incorporated by reference herein is a certified copy of the six (6) page Judgment in a Criminal case entered January 5, 2010, by Irene C. Berger, Judge, United States District Court, Southern District of West Virginia, in the case <u>United States of America v. Danny Ray Wills</u>, Case Number 1:09-CR-00159-01, Exhibit 3.
- 10. Copies of the above-referenced documents Exhibits 1, 2, and 3, all having been presented to the Board of Medicine at a regular meeting of the Board on March 8, 2010, where a quorum of the Board was present and voting, the Board determined that Dr. Wills has been found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction of a felony involving prescribing, selling, administering, dispensing, mixing or otherwise preparing a prescription drug including a controlled substance (hydrocodone) under state or federal law for other than generally accepted therapeutic purposes.
- 11. The Board concluded that as a matter of law, the license to practice medicine and surgery of Dr. Wills, License No. 10582, must be REVOKED under the provisions of West Virginia Code § 30-3-14(d), and accordingly, the Board voted in accordance with Board rule 11 CSR 3 7 at said regular meeting to REVOKE the license to practice medicine and surgery of Dr. Wills, effective March 10, 2010. Ms. Hays did not participate in any discussion or voting in this matter.

WHEREFORE, it is ORDERED that the license to practice medicine and surgery of Danny Ray Wills, M.D., License No. 10582, issued by the Board in August, 1975, is REVOKED, effective March 10, 2010.

Entered this 8th day of March, 2010.

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE

John A. Wade, Jr., M.D.

President

Catherine Slemp, M.D., M.P.H.

Secretary

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

BLUEFIELD DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Criminal Action No.1:09-00159-1

Plaintiff.

٧.

DANNY RAY WILLS, M.D.,

DATE: August 27, 2009

Defendant.

TRANSCRIPT OF PLEA HEARING BEFORE THE HONORABLE THOMAS E. JOHNSTON UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE IN BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA

APPEARANCES:

For the Government:

AUSA MONICA K. SCHWARTZ

U.S. Attorney's Office

P. O. Box 1713

Charleston, WV 25326-1713

For the Defendant:

MARK E. WILLS Wills Law Office 1617 N. Walker St. Princeton, WV 24740

WILLIAM B. FLANIGAN

Sanders, Austin, Flanigan & Flanigan

320 Courthouse Road Princeton, WV 24740

Probation Officer:

THOMAS D. STEVENS, JR.

Court Reporter:

Teresa L. Harvey, RMR, RDR, CRR

Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography; transcript produced by computer.

:	Proceedings had before the Honorable Thomas E. Johnston,
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	1
8	
9	MS. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, Monica Schwartz on behalf
10	of the United States, and with me I have three agents: Mike
11	Smith of the West Virginia State Police, Dominic Grant of DEA,
12	and Mike Yansick of FBI.
13	MR. WILLS: Mark Wills on behalf of Danny Wills.
14	MR. FLANIGAN: Your Honor, I'm Bill Flanigan on
15	behalf of Danny Wills.
16	THE COURT: Good afternoon. Which of you will be
17	speaking on behalf of the defendant today?
18	MR. WILLS: I will, Your Honor.
19	THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
20	Will the defendant please stand. And I'll ask the deputy
21	clerk to administer an oath at this time.
22	COURTROOM DEPUTY CLERK: Please raise your right
23	hand.
24	(Defendant placed under oath.)
25	THE COURT: You may be seated. Mr. Wills, do you

understand that you are now under oath and you must tell the truth, and if you testify falsely you may face prosecution for perjury or for making a false statement?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. We might want to get one of those microphones a little bit closer to the defendant so that I can -- so that I'm able to hear him and, more importantly, so that the court reporter is able to hear him.

Mr. Wills, throughout the course of this hearing I'm going to be asking you a number of questions, and I want to make sure that you and I are communicating clearly, so if at any time you don't understand the question that I ask, or anything else that occurs in this proceeding, I want you to feel free to speak up and seek clarification. Also, if at any time you need to confer with your attorneys, I'll be pleased to pause the proceedings to allow you to do so.

Do you understand all that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Let me begin by asking you, how old are you?

THE DEFENDANT: I'm 63.

THE COURT: And can you briefly describe your

educational background?

THE DEFENDANT: I have graduated from Princeton High School, went to Concord College. It was Concord College then.

I graduated there with a B.S. in chemistry; went to West Virginia University Medical School and graduated from there 2 with an M.D. degree, and did a residency in family practice at 3 Charleston Area Medical Center. 4 THE COURT: Just for the record, can you read and 5 write and understand the English language? 6 7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I can, Your Honor. THE COURT: And can you briefly describe your work 8 9 experience? 10 THE DEFENDANT: I didn't hear that question clearly. 11 THE COURT: Can you briefly describe your work 12 experience? **13** THE DEFENDANT: After leaving residency in Charleston, I practiced in a private setting for eight years 14 in Bluefield, West Virginia. At that point, I was recruited 15 by the hospital to work in the emergency room at Bluefield Community Hospital. I worked for them for approximately 20 17 years, for a total of about 28, 29 years of medical practice. 18 At that point, I ran for Sheriff of Mercer County and was 19 elected sheriff, and since January of '05 until June 16 of '09 20 21 I was Sheriff of Mercer County, when I resigned. THE COURT: Have you taken any medicine or drugs, or 22 consumed any alcoholic beverages, within the last 24 hours? 23

THE DEFENDANT: Only -- no scheduled substances, just

blood pressure medication, medication for heart rhythm, and I

1 suppose arthritis medicine is all. THE COURT: Can you tell me the names of the 2 medications you've taken? 3 THE DEFENDANT: Atenolol; ropinirole; digoxin, which 4 is presently being withheld; ketoprofen, which I take on a PRN 5 basis for arthritis; diovan HCT for blood pressure; one baby 6 aspirin a day; and warfarin. It's an anticoagulant. 7 I believe that's all of them, sir. 8 9 THE COURT: And you have taken all these medications 10 within the last 24 hours? THE DEFENDANT: All that would -- all that I was 11 12 supposed to take, yes. THE COURT: All right. And with regard to the ones 13 you've taken within the last 24 hours, are you suffering from 14 any side effects from any of those medications, as we sit here **15** today, that would in any way impair your ability to fully 16 l 17 participate in this hearing? 18 THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor. 19 THE COURT: Have you ever been treated for any mental illness or addiction to drugs of any kind? 20 21 THE DEFENDANT: I voluntarily went for alcohol 22 treatment in 2002. 23 THE COURT: All right. Do you know where -- where you are and why you're here today? 24 25 THE DEFENDANT: Can you repeat that, Your Honor?

1 Do you know where you are and why you're THE COURT: 2 here today? 3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Do you have any hearing impairment or 4 other disability which would in any way impair your ability to 5 fully participate in this hearing today? 6 7 THE DEFENDANT: I can understand what you're saying, 8 Your Honor. 9 THE COURT: Do you have any trouble hearing me? 10 THE DEFENDANT: I've been having a little bit of 11 hearing problem the last two or three months, but it's not -it's not significant, I don't think, for this hearing. 12 13 THE COURT: I want to make sure that you can hear everything, so most of the hearing is going to be me asking you 14 questions and you answering, but there are some other people 15 who are going to speak, and if at any time you don't hear something I want you to speak up and we want to make sure that 17 you can hear everything that occurs in this hearing. 18 Do you understand? THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: All right. Mr. Wills -- this is going to get confusing. I'm going to refer to the defendant as Dr. Wills and the attorney as Mr. Wills. Mr. Wills, do you have any reason to question the

25

competence of your client?

24

19

20

21

22

1 MR. WILLS: No, your Honor, I do not. THE COURT: All right. And do you or any other 2 member of your firm or -- I'll address this to Mr. Flanigan: 3 Do either of you represent anyone who might have an interest in 4 5 the outcome of this matter? 6 MR. FLANIGAN: No, Your Honor. 7 MR. WILLS: No, Your Honor. 8 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Ms. Schwartz, do you have the original of the plea 9 10 agreement? MS. SCHWARTZ: Yes, Your Honor, and the 11 certificate -- or the receipt indicating the \$100 special 12 13 assessment has been paid. THE COURT: All right. Would you please tender those 14 **15** both to the Court. All right. I will make the receipt a part of the record 16 for this proceeding. **17** I'm now going to ask Ms. Schwartz to summarize the terms 18 of the plea agreement. 19 And, Dr. Wills, I will ask that you listen carefully as 20 she summarizes the agreement you've reached with the 21 22 Government. 23 MS. SCHWARTZ: The plea agreement is in a letter form dated June 19, 2009, addressed to counsel for Dr. Wills. 24 Paragraph 1 sets forth the charging agreement, that is, 25

the information that has been filed in this case.

2 3

Paragraph 2 sets forth the resolution of charges whereby the defendant agrees to plead guilty to one charge of acquiring and obtaining possession of a quantity of hydrocodone by

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22 23

24

25

misrepresentation, fraud, deception and subterfuge. Paragraph 3 sets forth the maximum potential penalty, including imprisonment for four years; a \$250,000 fine; one year of supervised release; \$100 special assessment, which has

Paragraph 4 addresses the special assessment, which, as the Court has indicated, there is a receipt indicating payment.

Paragraph 5 relates to payment of monetary penalties.

Paragraph 6 sets forth the agreement with regard to cooperation.

been paid; denial of federal benefits; and restitution.

Paragraph 7, use immunity.

Paragraph 8, the limitations on immunity.

Paragraph 9 specifically sets forth the fact that there is a Stipulation of Facts, and there is an agreement as to a waiver of the Federal Rule of Evidence 410, pursuant to the plea agreement.

Paragraph 10 sets forth the parties' agreement with regard to the waiver of appeal and collateral attack.

Paragraph 11 sets forth the agreement with regard to the waiver of FOIA and privacy rights.

Paragraph 12 relates to final disposition.

Paragraph 13 sets forth the agreement as to the voiding of 1 2 the agreement. 3 And, finally, paragraph 14 indicates the entirety of the 4 agreement. The letter agreement comprises six pages, Your Honor. 5 On each of the first five pages the defendant has placed his initials, and on the last page the defendant, Mr. Wills, 7 Mr. Flanigan, and I have all signed, and the parties have agreed by their signatures and the initials at the bottom of 9 each page that they have read, understood and agreed to all 10 the terms and conditions set forth in the plea agreement. 11 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Schwartz. 12 Dr. Wills, is that your signature that appears on the **13** final page of the plea agreement? 14 15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: And are those your initials that appear 16 17 on the other pages? 18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: And do you understand and agree with the 19 terms contained in the plea agreement? 20 21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 22

THE COURT: All right. I'm going to ask you some specific questions about certain provisions of the plea agreement, beginning with section 9, which begins on page 3, and is entitled "Stipulation of Facts and Waiver of Federal

24

Rule of Evidence 410."

_

Facts?

Now, this section accomplishes a couple of different things. First of all, it references the Stipulation of Facts, which is attached to the plea agreement as Exhibit B, and I want to talk with you about that first.

Is that your signature that appears on the fourth and final page of Exhibit B, the Stipulation of Facts?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And have you read the Stipulation of

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: And do you agree with the facts contained in the stipulation?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Just to inform you a little bit about the process from here on out, I will be asking — after the plea today, I will be asking the probation officer to prepare a Presentence Investigation Report. That report will contain detailed recommended factual findings regarding not only this offense, but also your history and background, among other things.

Now, you and the Government have entered into an agreement with regard to certain facts in this case, but I want you to understand that neither the probation office, nor this court when I ultimately make factual findings at sentencing, are

bound by the Stipulation of Facts. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, I've been told that all along.

THE COURT: All right. And do you further understand that if the findings of fact that I make at sentencing are different from, or inconsistent with, the facts set forth in the stipulation, that you will still be bound by your guilty plea and would have no right to withdraw it?

THE DEFENDANT: I understand that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. The other item addressed in section 9 is a waiver of Rule 410 of the Rules of Evidence. Now, that rule, generally speaking, provides that information and documents related to plea negotiations are generally not admissible in the Government's case-in-chief, if there is a subsequent trial. However, under this waiver, you waive that rule; and if there were to be a subsequent trial in this case, the Government would be permitted to present the Stipulation of Facts in its case-in-chief. Do you understand that waiver?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Next I want to direct your attention to section 10 of the plea agreement, which is entitled "waiver of Appeal and Collateral Attack," and begins on page 4. Now, this section relates to a couple of different procedures. One is an appeal. An appeal is a procedure by which a party in a criminal case before a district court like this one, often the

-

defendant, goes to the Court of Appeals, after the case at the direct level is over, and argues that certain errors took place before the district court.

A collateral attack is a procedure by which a defendant, after a criminal case is over, may file a separate civil action, sometimes referred to as a habeas corpus petition, arguing that certain errors took place before the district court.

Now, with that in mind, there are certain waivers contained in section 10, and I want to go over those with you now. In the first paragraph of section 10, do you understand that you waive the right to appeal any sentence of imprisonment or fine if your sentence is within or below the guidelines range before any departures or variances, with one exception; if your attorney objects in this court, you may appeal the calculation of the guideline range. Do you understand that waiver?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Second, in the second paragraph, do you also understand that you may not file a later civil proceeding, sometimes referred to as a collateral attack or a habeas corpus petition, challenging your plea, conviction, or sentence?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Finally, do you understand that you are, in no event, waiving your right to claim ineffective assistance

of counsel, either on appeal or by collateral attack? 2 THE DEFENDANT: I didn't understand all of that 3 question. THE COURT: All right. Do you understand that you 4 5 are, in no event, waiving your right to claim ineffective assistance of counsel, either on appeal or by collateral 6 7 attack? 8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: All right. Finally, I want to refer you 9 10 to section 11, which is entitled "Waiver of FOIA and Privacy Right." Now, this waiver means that you cannot go back after 11 this case is over and seek documents or other information 12 about the case from the Government, even with a Freedom of 13 14 Information Act request. Do you understand that waiver? **15** THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 16 THE COURT: And have you reviewed the plea agreement **17** in detail with your attorneys? 18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 19 THE COURT: And do you believe that you've had adequate time to discuss your case fully with your attorneys? 20 21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 22 THE COURT: Have your attorneys answered any questions that you've had about your case? 23 24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 25 THE COURT: And, Mr. Wills, during your

representation of the defendant has he been cooperative? 2 MR. WILLS: Yes, Your Honor, he has. 3 THE COURT: Dr. Wills, has anything further been agreed to, either orally or in writing, that is not contained 4 5 in the plea agreement? THE DEFENDANT: Not that I'm aware of, Your Honor. 6 THE COURT: All right. I'll order that the plea 7 agreement be filed. I will find that the defendant understands 8 and agrees with the terms contained in the plea agreement. Ι will defer accepting or rejecting the plea agreement until 10 sentencing, after the presentence report has been received and 11 **12** considered by the Court. Now, Dr. Wills, have you received, and read, and reviewed **13** with your attorney the information that has been lodged against 14 **15** you? 16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 17 THE COURT: And do you understand the charges contained in the information? 18 19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: Would you like me to read the information 20 to you, or will you waive the reading of the information? 21 THE DEFENDANT: I'll waive that reading. 22 23 THE COURT: All right. As I understand it, you'll be pleading guilty to a single-count information which charges you 24 with acquiring and obtaining possession of quantities of 25

hydrocodone by misrepresentation, fraud, deception or subterfuge, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 843(a)(3).

Now I want to go over that statute and that charge with you in just a little bit more detail. Section 843(a)(3) provides, in pertinent part, that:

"It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally to acquire or obtain possession of a controlled substance, in this case hydrocodone, by misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception or subterfuge."

Now, in order to prove that charge against you, the Government would have to come in here and prove the following elements of that crime beyond a reasonable doubt, and those are:

First: That you knowingly and intentionally obtained possession of hydrocodone; and

Second: At the time you obtained possession, you knew the substance was a controlled substance; and

Third: You obtained possession of hydrocodone by misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception or subterfuge.

Now I want to share with you some definitions that apply to what I have just told you. Hydrocodone is a Schedule III controlled substance.

"To possess" means to exercise control or authority over something.

17

21

22

23

24

_ .

An act is done intentionally if done knowing that the act is one which the law forbids and purposefully intending to violate the law.

An act is done knowingly if done voluntarily and intentionally and not because of mistake, or accident, or other innocent reason.

Now I want to go over with you the maximum and any minimum sentences you may face as a result of your plea, and that is a maximum term of imprisonment of four years; maximum fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross pecuniary gain or loss resulting from your conduct, whichever is greater; a maximum term of supervised release of one year.

As a part of any fine that I may impose, you could be required to pay the costs of incarceration and/or supervision upon release. Currently, the monthly cost of incarceration is \$2,157.88; the monthly cost of supervision is \$185.77; and the monthly cost of community confinement is \$1,990.13.

A mandatory special assessment would apply, but I note has already been paid.

Restitution could be ordered if it were found to be applicable; and federal benefits could be denied for a period of up to one year.

Now I want to talk with you regarding the Federal
Sentencing Guidelines. They are advisory, but they will,
nevertheless, play an important role in your case from here on

out. This Court will consider the factors set forth in

18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), including the advisory guideline factors,

in determining the appropriate sentence for your case.

I now want to ask you some questions that will help me to understand your understanding of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Have you discussed with your attorney the various factors which apply in determining what the sentence may be in your case under the advisory guidelines?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that, on this single-count information, you could not in any event receive a greater sentence than the statutory maximum that I explained to you earlier?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand the Court will not determine the sentence for your case until a later date, when a presentence report has been completed and both you and the Government have had an opportunity to challenge the facts and analysis reported by the probation officer?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you also understand that under a concept known as relevant conduct this Court, in determining the total offense level for sentencing purposes under the guidelines, may take into account any conduct, circumstances, or injuries relevant to the crime of which you may be

1 |

convicted?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that after the Court has determined what advisory guidelines apply to your case, the Court has the authority to vary or depart from the advisory guidelines and impose a sentence that is more severe or less severe than the sentence called for by the guidelines?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that in determining your sentence the Court is obligated to calculate the applicable sentencing guideline range, and to consider that range, possible departures under the guidelines, and other sentencing factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you also understand that, under certain circumstances, you or the Government may have the right to appeal the sentence which is imposed upon you?

THE DEFENDANT: Will you repeat that, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes. Do you also understand that, under certain circumstances, you or the Government may have the right to appeal the sentence which is imposed upon you?

THE DEFENDANT: I do now, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Do you understand that parole has been abolished, and if you're sentenced to prison you will not be released on parole?

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24

25

I understand that, Your Honor. THE DEFENDANT:

Do you understand if the Court accepts THE COURT: your plea of guilty and the sentence ultimately imposed upon you is more severe than you had hoped for or expected, you will still be bound by your guilty plea and would have no right to withdraw it?

THE DEFENDANT: I know that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand if you plead guilty to this single-count information, which charges you with a felony, you may lose important civil rights, such as the right to vote, the right to serve on a jury, the right to hold public office, and the right to own or possess a firearm?

THE DEFENDANT: I realize that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. You have the right to have this matter presented to a federal grand jury, and I want to explain that process to you briefly. A grand jury is composed of at least 16, and not more than 23, persons, and at least 12 grand jurors must find that there is probable cause to believe that you committed the crime with which you are charged before you may be indicted.

Do you see any benefit of having this case presented to a grand jury?

> I see no benefit. THE DEFENDANT:

THE COURT: Do you see any prejudice to you of not having the case presented to a grand jury?

THE DEFENDANT: No prejudice. 1 THE COURT: All right. Your counsel have been 2 provided with a Waiver of Indictment form, and I want to go 3 over that with you now. It has the style, "United States of 5 America versus Danny Ray Wills," and the criminal action number, and is entitled "Waiver of Indictment," and reads as 6 7 follows: "I, Danny Ray Wills, am accused of violating 8 21 U.S.C. § 843(a)(3). I've been advised of the 9 nature of the charge, of the proposed information, 10 and of my rights. I hereby waive in open court 11 12 prosecution by indictment and consent that the 13 proceeding may be by information rather than by 14 indictment." 15 And there is a space for you to sign and date, and a space for your counsel to sign, and a space for me to sign. 16 **17** Do you understand what I've just read to you? THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor, 18 THE COURT: Is there anything about it you don't 19 understand, or any questions you have about it? 20 21 THE DEFENDANT: I understand it. 22 THE COURT: All right. And are you prepared to execute the Waiver of Indictment? 23 THE DEFENDANT: I'm prepared to execute it. 24

25

THE COURT: All right. I would ask that you do so at

_

this time, and that your counsel would sign it and tender it to the Court.

All right. I would note for the record that the defendant has signed and dated the waiver of Indictment form, and that both of his counsel have signed it. I am now signing it as well, and I will order that it be made a part of the record for this proceeding.

Now, Dr. Wills, I'd like to talk with you about your trial and constitutional rights.

You have the right to plead not guilty and maintain a not-guilty plea throughout these proceedings, including at trial.

You have the right to be represented by counsel.

You have the right to a speedy and public trial by a jury composed of twelve citizens of this district and one or more alternates.

You have the right to confront and have your attorney cross-examine the witnesses and have your attorney move to suppress any evidence he believes was illegally or unconstitutionally obtained.

You have the right not to testify or otherwise incriminate yourself, and your exercise of this right cannot be held against you.

You have the right to have the Government come in here and prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

The jury's verdict would have to be unanimous. 1 2 You have the right to present evidence on your own behalf, if you wish, and to subpoena witnesses to testify for you. 3 Do you understand all these rights? 4 THE DEFENDANT: I understand all these rights, Your 6 Honor. 7 THE COURT: Any of them you don't understand or you have questions about? 8 9 THE DEFENDANT: I have no questions. THE COURT: Do you understand that these are all 10 11 rights that you'll be giving up by entering a plea of guilty? 12 THE DEFENDANT: I understand. 13 THE COURT: Do you understand that once you've 14 entered a plea of guilty there is not going to be any trial, no jury verdict, and no findings of innocence or guilt based on 15 16 disputed evidence presented to me or to a jury? **17** THE DEFENDANT: I understand. 18 THE COURT: Do you understand that once you've 19 entered a guilty plea, the right to appeal is restricted to 20 certain issues, among them the jurisdiction of this court, 21 this Rule 11 plea proceeding, the effectiveness of the 22 representation provided by your counsel, the sentencing proceedings, and the sentence itself? 23 24 THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

THE COURT: Do you believe that you fully understand

the consequences of entering a plea of guilty? 2 I fully understand. THE DEFENDANT: THE COURT: And, Mr. Wills, having reviewed this case 3 4 and the plea agreement in detail with your client, do you believe that he fully understands his rights and fully 5 understands the consequences of entering a plea of guilty? 6 7 MR. WILLS: Yes, Your Honor, I do. THE COURT: All right. I note that there is a very 8 detailed Stipulation of Facts in this case. Does either side 9 have any objection to the Court utilizing the stipulation as 10 11 the factual basis for the plea? 12 MS. SCHWARTZ: The United States has no objection to that. We would like to add one -- a couple of small details, 13 14 Your Honor. 15 THE COURT: Certainly. Your Honor, we have no objection. 16 MR. WILLS: 17 THE COURT: Do you want to do that by way of proffer? MS. SCHWARTZ: I'd like to do that by proffer, if 18 19 it's acceptable to defense counsel. 20 THE COURT: Any objection. Mr. Wills? 21 MR. WILLS: No objection. 22 THE COURT: All right. 23 MS. SCHWARTZ: The facts that the United States wishes to add to the Stipulation of Facts are as follows: 24 Included in the files that were seized pursuant to the 25

administrative warrant in this matter, correspondence between GIV, which is a company that provided the hydrocodone pills to Dr. Wills -- between that company and Dr. Wills in January of 3 2009, indicated that GIV had, in fact, questioned wills about 4 his excessive or atypical hydrocodone orders. In response, 5 Wills assured GIV that he was acquiring the hydrocodone to 6 dispense to patients. He did not advise that he was taking 7 8 any of the hydrocodone himself. I'm sorry if I puzzled you, Your Honor. 9 THE COURT: I thought that was in the stipulation. 10 11 MS. SCHWARTZ: Is it? If it is, I missed it. 12 THE COURT: I think it's paragraph 14 of the 13 stipulation, is it not? 14 MS. SCHWARTZ: I apologize, then, Your Honor. **15** You're absolutely right. You're right. I don't need to add anything, then. I apologize, Your Honor. 16 17 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. All right. 18 Dr. Wills, will you please stand. 19 As to the single -- the charge contained in the single-count information, how do you plead, sir, guilty or not 20 21 quilty? 22 THE DEFENDANT: I plead guilty. 23 THE COURT: You may be seated. Counsel has been provided with a written plea of guilty 24

I would ask that you go over that with him, if

form.

necessary, sign, and date it. I'll ask at least one of your 2 counsel to sign it and tender it to the Court. 3 All right. I would note for the record that the defendant has signed and dated the Written Plea of Guilty form. It's 4 been witnessed by his counsel, and I will order that it be made 5 a part of the record for this proceeding. 6 Dr. Wills, is this plea the result of any threat or 7 8 coercion or harassment of you by anyone? 9 THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: Is it the result of any promise or 11 inducement, other than those contained in the plea agreement? 12 THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor. 13 THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty to protect 14 anyone? **15** THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor. THE COURT: Are you acting voluntarily and of your 16 **17** own free will in entering this guilty plea? 18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 19 THE COURT: Has anyone promised or predicted the 20 exact sentence which will be imposed in this case? 21 THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor. 22 THE COURT: Do you understand that no one could know at this time the exact sentence which will be imposed? 24 THE DEFENDANT: I understand that. 25 **THE COURT:** Have your attorneys adequately

represented you in this matter?

THE DEFENDANT: Very well, sir.

THE COURT: Have your attorneys left anything undone which you think should have been done?

THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Have you or your attorneys found any defense to the charge contained in the information?

THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Are you, in fact, guilty of the crime charged in the information? In other words, did you do it?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. I will find that the defendant is competent and capable of entering an informed plea, that the plea is freely and voluntarily made, that the defendant understands the nature of the charges, and is aware of the consequences of the plea.

I'll find that the defendant understands his rights and understands that he is giving up these rights by entering a plea of guilty.

I will find that there is a basis in fact for the tendered plea, and that the elements of the crime charged in the information have been established. I will accept the plea of guilty to the information, but will defer adjudging the defendant guilty until the time of sentencing.

I will ask the probation officer to prepare a presentence

report.

Mr. Wills, it is important -- or, Dr. Wills, it is important that you cooperate fully with the probation officer in the preparation of the presentence report. If you fail to cooperate fully and truthfully, you could be subject to an enhancement of your sentence or forfeiture of certain sentence reductions for which you might otherwise be eligible.

It's also important that you not commit any additional crimes between now and sentencing, as there may be additional punishments imposed for committing additional crimes.

I want to give counsel now some dates and deadlines with regard to sentencing. I'm going to direct that a draft presentence report be provided to counsel by October 29, 2009. Objections will be due on November 13. Final presentence report will be due to the Court on November 30. Sentencing memoranda from both sides will be due on December 7; and I'll set this matter for sentencing on December 14 at 9:00 a.m., in Beckley.

Ms. Schwartz, what's the Government's position with regard to bond?

MS. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, the United States notes that, pursuant to a target letter, Dr. Wills responded to our office and voluntarily surrendered his DEA certification to dispense controlled substances. I believe that was back in June of this year. However, at that time we also asked that he

give up possession of any firearms, especially his service
revolver that he had at that time as sheriff, and he agreed to
do that. It was our understanding that he was also giving up
possession of all other firearms; however, I see from the
Pretrial Services Report that he apparently still has firearms,
so other than being somewhat concerned about that fact, the
United States has no intention of seeking detention in this

THE COURT: Mr. Wills, would you like to address that?

MR. WILLS: Yes, Your Honor, I would. Mr. Wills has no firearms in his home. They have all been taken out, so that problem is resolved.

And I believe he surrendered his license in May when you-all first spoke with him, not June.

THE COURT: And has he -- do I recall correctly that he has a passport?

MR. WILLS: Yes, Your Honor. He has brought it with him today to surrender to the probation department.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Well, I will permit the defendant to be released pending sentencing on a \$10,000 unsecured bond, subject to the conditions set forth in the Pretrial Services Report. And I would ask that he immediately proceed to processing with the bond papers and with the Marshal's Service following this hearing.

case.

1	MR. WILLS: Thank you, Your Honor.
2	THE COURT: Is there anything else we need to take up
3	today?
4	MS. SCHWARTZ: No, Your Honor.
5	MR. WILLS: No, Your Honor.
6	THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
7	MR. FLANIGAN: Thank you, Your Honor.
8	MR. WILLS: Thank you.
9	(Proceeding concluded at 2:40 p.m., August 27, 2009.)
10	
11	CERTIFICATION:
12	I, Teresa L. Harvey, Official Court Reporter, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record
13	of proceedings in the matter of United States of America, Plaintiff v. Danny Ray Wills, M.D., Defendant, Criminal Action
14	No. 1:09-00159-1, as reported on August 27, 2009.
15	Peresa L. Harvey
16	s/Teresa L. Harvey, RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR January 14, 2010
17	
18	
19	
20	(*
21	
22	
23	
24	e a
25	

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA AT BECKLEY

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, :

-----x

CRIMINAL ACTION

vs.

NO. 1:09-CR-00159

DANNY RAY WILLS,

December 17, 2009

Defendant.

SENTENCING HEARING

BEFORE THE HONORABLE IRENE C. BERGER UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the United States: MS. MONICA K. SCHWARTZ Assistant U.S. Attorney 300 Virginia Street, East Charleston, WV 25301

For the Defendant:

MR. MARK E. WILLS Wills Law Office

1617 North Walker Street Princeton, WV 24740

MR. WILLIAM B. FLANIGAN Sanders, Austin, Flanigan &

Flanigan

320 Courthouse Road Princeton, WV 24740

Court Reporter:

Lisa A. Cook, RPR-RMR-CRR-FCRR

Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography; transcript produced by computer.

PROCEEDINGS

The matter before the Court is the THE CLERK: United States vs. Danny Ray Wills, Case Number 1:09-CR-159, scheduled for sentencing.

THE COURT: Good afternoon, counsel. Would you note your appearances on the record, please.

MS. SCHWARTZ: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Monica Schwartz on behalf of the United States. And with me at counsel table are Diversion Investigator Dominick Grant from the DEA and Special Agent Mike Yansick from the FBI.

MR. MARK WILLS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Mark Wills on behalf of Dr. Wills.

MR. FLANIGAN: Your Honor, I'm Bill Flanigan on behalf of Dr. Wills.

THE COURT: All right, counsel, are we prepared to proceed in the case of United States vs. Danny Ray Wills for purposes of sentencing here this afternoon?

MS. SCHWARTZ: The United States is prepared, Your Honor.

MR. MARK WILLS: The defense is prepared, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

Mr. Wills, would you and the defendant please stand.

And, Madam Clerk, would you administer the oath for me, please.

PENGAD • 1-800-631-8989

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

(Defendant sworn)

THE COURT: I'm going to refer to you, sir, as Mr. Danny Wills so that there is no confusion on the record.

Mr. Danny Wills, you pled guilty to acquiring and obtaining possession of a quantity of hydrocodone by misrepresentation, fraud, deception, and subterfuge in violation of 21 U.S.C. 843(a)(3) as charged in the single-count information filed against you.

Since the time of your plea, the United States
Probation Office has prepared a pre-sentence report.

Mr. Mark Wills, have you had an opportunity to read that report?

MR. MARK WILLS: Yes, Your Honor, I have.

THE COURT: And having read the report, is there any reason that you are aware of why we cannot proceed here today?

MR. MARK WILLS: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Danny Wills, have you had an opportunity to read the report and discuss its contents with your lawyers?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand the contents of the report?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Having reviewed the addendum to the

report, it appears that neither the Government or the defendant have any remaining objections to that report. Is that correct, counsel?

MR. MARK WILLS: That is correct, Your Honor.

MS. SCHWARTZ: That's correct on behalf of the United States, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Having reviewed the report, the Court finds sufficient indicia of reliability to support the probable accuracy of the information contained in the pre-sentence report and the addendum to that report.

Therefore, the Court adopts the pre-sentence report and the addendum, and directs the probation office to file a copy of the pre-sentence report in the court file under seal.

At this time, the Court accepts the plea agreement on the grounds that the defendant's plea adequately reflects the seriousness of the actual offense behavior, and that accepting the agreement will not undermine the statutory purposes of sentencing or the United States Sentencing Guidelines. The Court's judgment and sentence will be consistent with the plea agreement in this case.

Pursuant to the defendant's plea of guilty to the single-count information on August 27th, 2009, and in light of the fact that Judge Johnston reserved adjudication of guilt, I adjudge the defendant guilty and he now stands

convicted of violating 21 U.S.C. Section 843(a)(3).

The defendant stands convicted of acquiring and obtaining possession of a quantity of hydrocodone by misrepresentation, fraud, deception, and subterfuge in violation of 21 U.S.C. Section 843(a)(3). Federal law provides the following maximum penalties for violating this statute:

A term of imprisonment of four years; a term of probation of one to five years; a period of supervised release of one year; a fine of \$250,000; restitution; and a special assessment of \$100.

In light of the Supreme Court's opinion in *Gall* vs.

United States and United States vs. Booker, the United

States Sentencing Guidelines are now advisory and are not binding on the Court.

According to the *Gall* decision, however, I'm still required to calculate and consider the applicable guideline range. I must also consider the sentencing factors listed in 18 U.S.C. 3553(a).

And I will begin by calculating, for purposes of the record, the advisory guideline range. And then I will call on you lawyers to tell me whether you have any objection to the calculation.

The relevant United States Sentencing Guideline is found in Section 2D2.2 which provides for a Base Offense

Level, Mr. Wills, of eight. Accordingly, the Base Offense Level is just that, eight.

Section 3B1.3 provides for a two-level increase if the defendant abused a position of public or private trust or used a special skill in a manner that significantly facilitated the commission or concealment of the offense.

The Court finds that the defendant did abuse a position of public or private trust or use a special skill in a manner that significantly facilitated the commission or concealment of the offense. With that two-level increase, the offense level is 10.

I'll now address the issue of acceptance of responsibility.

Section 3E1.1(a) provides for a two-level decrease for acceptance of responsibility. The Court finds that the defendant has accepted responsibility for the offense by pleading guilty before trial and by truthfully admitting the conduct comprising the offense. That decreases the offense level to eight.

The defendant has no criminal history. According to the sentencing table, zero criminal history points establishes a Criminal History Category of I.

Given a Total Offense Level of eight and a Criminal History Category of I, the advisory guideline range is as follows:

A term of imprisonment of zero to six months; a term of probation of not less than one or more than five years; a period of supervised release of one year; a fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000; restitution; and a special assessment of \$100.

Mr. Wills, Mr. Schwartz, is there anything that either of you would like to place on the record regarding these calculations?

MR. MARK WILLS: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Ms. Schwartz, anything that you would like to say concerning my calculations?

MS. SCHWARTZ: The United States agrees with the Court's calculations, Your Honor.

Then, counsel, I will address and ask THE COURT: that you address any factors under 18 U.S.C. 3553(a) that you want to address prior to my administering sentence with respect to Mr. Wills. I'm happy to do those individually, but it would seem to me that I can address them after I've given both counsel an opportunity to address any 3553 factor that you choose to address.

Mr. Wills.

MR. MARK WILLS: Your Honor, you have the facts before you in the pre-sentence report. Mr. Wills has accepted responsibility for his crime. He has cooperated with the United States Government from, from day one.

When the, when the warrant was served at his office, he

PENGAD • 1-800-631-6989 •

1

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

cooperated. Ms. Schwartz called and asked for a meeting with Mr. Wills to come to Charleston, which he did, and met with the U.S. Attorney's Office. He cooperated without counsel. He, at their request, gave up his service revolver and his DEA license on that date.

He has -- he resigned as sheriff prior to any plea agreement, not wanting to harm the sheriff's department in any way. He, up to this point in his life, has led an exemplary life. He knows he did wrong, and he accepts that.

And based upon those factors, Your Honor, we would request that he be placed on probation and, if not, then allow him to be, serve his time in community incarceration and be allowed to seek treatment at the Williamsburg clinic, which is a ninety-day treatment facility, at a cost of \$40,000 to Mr. Wills.

In addition, since his plea, he has worked with the State Police in investigations. He has worked with the United States Postal Service, has met with them concerning investigations in other matters.

So, again, we request that Mr. Wills be placed on probation.

THE COURT: All right.

Ms. Schwartz, any position that the Government wants to take with respect to the 3553 factors?

MS. SCHWARTZ: I've addressed all the factors,

1	Your Honor, I believe, in the sentencing memorandum. So, I
2	won't go over those. I do want to make two brief
3	clarifications in response to what defendant's counsel just
4	said.
5	The first is that when I requested Sheriff/Dr. Wills,
6	the defendant here, to come to Charleston for a meeting, I
7	did not specifically request that he come without counsel.
8	I want to make that clear.
9	THE COURT: I did not understand that to be
10	Mr. Wills's comment.
11	MS. SCHWARTZ: I didn't think he meant it either,
12	but just for purposes of the record.
13	THE COURT: All right.
14	MS. SCHWARTZ: And, secondly, I would also
15	indicate to the Court that the defendant has, in fact, met
16	with Government officials on two occasions since he entered
17	into his plea, once with the State Police and once with the
18	Postal Inspector Service, because they were curious about
19	what information he might have.
20	However, that information is not the type of
21	information that the United States would be able to use in
22	any significant way in the prosecution of someone else. He
23	was, however, cooperative in meeting with them.

is there anything, counsel, that either of you or the

THE COURT: All right. Other than those factors,

PENGAD • 1-800-631-6989

LASER BOND FORM A

25

defendant want to state prior to disposition? 1 MR. MARK WILLS: Your Honor, I believe Mr. Wills 2 would like to make a statement to the Court. 3 4 THE COURT: All right. 5 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, I just want to express that I do assume responsibility. I am sorry for my actions. 6 I want to get on with my life. That's really all. 7 8 total responsibility. 9 THE COURT: All right. THE DEFENDANT: I'm very sorry. 10 11 THE COURT: I apologize. I did not intend to 12 interrupt you. Mr. Mark Wills, anything that either you or co-counsel 13 14 want to state prior to sentencing? MR. MARK WILLS: Your Honor, I have nothing 15 I believe the Court has all the information before 16 further. 17 it. 18 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Schwartz, on behalf of the Government? 19 MS. SCHWARTZ: Nothing further on behalf of the 20 21 United States, Your Honor. 22 THE COURT: All right. 23 As I've indicated, by law I'm required to address the factors of 18 U.S.C. 3553(a) prior to imposing sentence or 24 address them prior to our leaving here today. I'm required

to give consideration to the nature and circumstances of the offense. You lawyers have, to some extent, addressed that here today, and you have addressed it in your sentencing memoranda.

I will, for purposes of the record, state that the defendant as an elected official of Mercer County, as sheriff, and as what I understand from my review of the pre-sentence report at the time a retired physician, continued, to some extent, to practice medicine in the office of the sheriff of Mercer County after being placed in that position.

According to the pre-sentence report, and I think there's no objection to the factual recitation contained in that report, he ordered drugs, paid for them with funds that were specifically allotted to the sheriff's budget.

There are factual statements contained in the pre-sentence report in addition that drugs were prescribed for at least one other individual, and the drugs were for the defendant's own personal use.

I think there have been statements made here today about his cooperation with law enforcement once this was brought to their attention. I have already indicated on the record that he has been given an acceptance of responsibility decrease in offense level based on his cooperation after the matter was brought to the attention of

law enforcement.

LASER BOND FORM A

I also must, under 3553(a), give consideration to the need for the sentence imposed to reflect the seriousness of the offense and to promote respect for the law and provide just punishment.

In making a decision in that regard, I will state for purposes of the record I think the offense is a serious offense, Mr. Wills, in that you were in a position of trust. You were a physician. I think that in the conduct that brings us here today, you put the office of the sheriff at risk for liability.

Your actions also diminish the public's confidence in the office that you held. And you violated the trust of the office of sheriff, but also violated the oath, in my opinion, that you took as a medical provider or a physician.

So, I consider the offense to be one that is very serious and believe that it is necessary to take that into consideration.

I also take into consideration in making the determination about just punishment and a punishment or sentence that would promote respect that based on everything else that I have read, you have served the community for a long time in a very respectable manner. There's no prior criminal record. The letters of support speak well of your service in the community.

1

2

3

4

5

6.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

25

Quite frankly, based on my review, I think it surprised people who knew you when they found that you were in this position. And I take that into consideration as well in trying to determine an appropriate punishment and a sentence that will promote respect for the law.

I've also given consideration to those same factors when it comes to deterrence. And in giving consideration to any needed medical care or corrective treatment, educational or vocational training, I think that there is an agreement here, based on what I've been able to see, that there is a need for treatment for you, sir, given what's contained in the pre-sentence report, given the, what I'm going to call a misuse of controlled substances.

I also want to ensure that any sentence would avoid any other sentence disparities with defendants in the same position and with similar or the same circumstances. I'm going to, in that regard, give consideration to the Sentencing Guidelines, although I find that there is no presumption of their reasonableness.

And I want to ensure, however, that whatever sentence that I give will be one that -- will not be one that promotes any type of sentence disparities among people whom are similarly situated.

Having given consideration to all of the 3553 factors, including giving consideration to any policy, relevant

policy statements issued by the Sentencing Commission that would affect this particular sentence, my sentence is as follows.

It's the judgment of this Court that the defendant be committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons for a term of six months. And I further order that he be placed on a period of supervised release for a term of one year.

I will order, with respect to the supervised release, Mr. Wills, that within 72 hours that you report in person to the United States Probation Office in the district to which you are released; that while you are on supervised release, you not commit any federal, state, or local crime. You must not possess a firearm or other dangerous device. And you must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.

I also order that you not -- that you must comply with the standard terms and conditions of supervised release as recommended by the United States Sentencing Commission and as adopted by this Court, including the special condition that you participate in a program of treatment for drug and alcohol abuse as directed by your probation officer.

Again, giving consideration to this sentence, and confinement of six months, I've given consideration to the fact that you, so far as I could ascertain, up until this point, you were a model citizen, Mr. Wills. But I've also

given consideration to the seriousness of it, the impact of it in the community, as well as the fact that there is indicia in this report that even though there's acceptance of responsibility, that I am not totally convinced that you understand the real risk that you have of addiction given your past struggle with alcohol and given this particular situation with drugs.

You were in a position of trust. That confidence was placed in you by the voters. And as I've indicated previously, when you violated that, you diminished the office, and certainly diminished the public's confidence in that office.

Your actions -- I noticed when I was reading the defendant's sentencing memoranda, the argument was made that your actions were that of a physician and not that of a sheriff. And I want to place on the record and be very clear that I disagree with that statement, counsel. And I disagree with it because he was a sheriff. He was the face of the office. He was the face of law enforcement in Mercer County.

At the same time as a physician, he ordered medicines. He used funds from the sheriff's office to pay for those, and used some of those for his own use.

I've given consideration to the fact, in determining that this is a just and appropriate sentence, one that will

LASER BOND FORM A

hopefully enhance the respect for the law and will also deter others and will deter Mr. Wills from any future conduct, that there are, based on the calculations in the pre-sentence report, approximately \$4,500 -- 4,500 hydrocodone pills which were actually purchased. And most of those pills, 42-, almost 4,300 of them, 4,296 were unaccounted for.

Based on the facts of the case, 31 of those could be traced to patients. There were 173, Mr. Wills, in your possession when the search was conducted. And, again, according to the facts contained in the report, there were 4,296 of them which could not be accounted for.

So, again, I believe that your actions were not only those of a physician, but that of a law enforcement officer, and that you tainted both professions being in a position of public trust.

Counsel, are there any motions at this time before I proceed?

MR. MARK WILLS: Not from the defense, Your Honor.

MS. SCHWARTZ: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. I am going to order a special assessment in this case in the amount of \$100.

I will also order that restitution be paid in this case. I am -- the crime in this case is one under 21 U.S.C. 843(a)(3) and is not an offense under 18 U.S.C. 3663(a)(C)

for which a mandatory restitution applies.

Under 18 U.S.C. 3663 the Court may order the defendant to pay restitution to any victim of the offense. And given the facts of this case, counsel and Mr. Wills, I find that this is a crime with an identifiable victim, that being the Mercer County Commission.

However, in deciding whether to impose restitution, I am required to consider the amount of the loss sustained by the victim as a result of the offense and the financial resources of the defendant, the financial needs and earning ability of the defendant, and the defendant's dependents and such other factors as the Court deems appropriate.

Applying those factors, it's my finding that the amount of loss to the Mercer County Commission occasioned by this offense is \$863.54. And I'm going to order, Mr. Wills, that restitution be made in that amount.

I've taken into consideration your earning ability at this time, as well as your financial situation. And I find that you are capable of paying the restitution that was occasioned by the conduct that resulted in the charge in this particular case.

MR. MARK WILLS: Your Honor, --

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. MARK WILLS: -- if I may, --

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. MARK WILLS: -- Mr. Wills has already paid that, that amount.

I recall reviewing that in the THE COURT: pre-sentence report, but I want to make sure that there is an order --

> MR. MARK WILLS: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: -- to that effect.

MR. MARK WILLS: Yes, ma'am.

Mr. Wills, I also want to advise you THE COURT: that you have a right to appeal this Court's sentence. you want to appeal this sentence, you must file a written notice of appeal with the clerk of this court within 10 days of the clerk's entry of this court's order of sentence and If you fail to file a written notice of intent to appeal within that 10-day period, your right to appeal expires.

Do you understand that, sir?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

If you file a notice and the Court THE COURT: finds that you do not have the money to procure transcripts or other documents necessary to make your appeal or to pay for the services of a lawyer to represent you on your appeal, the costs will be borne by the United States.

Do you understand that as well?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: This sentence is a final judgment,
Mr. Wills. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3582, I cannot release you
from prison or reduce or modify your sentence once the
judgment is final unless the director of the Bureau of
Prisons makes such a motion or the United States makes a
motion pursuant to Rule 35 for substantial assistance. As a
consequence, any letters written to me asking to change,
reduce, or modify your sentence will be of no consequence.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Because you were released, Mr. Wills, on a surety bond pending sentencing, the Bail Reform Act of 1984 permits me to allow you to surrender voluntarily if there is clear and convincing evidence that you are not likely to flee and not likely to pose a danger to any other person or to the community if released.

Ms. Schwartz, what's the Government's position concerning his voluntary surrender?

MS. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, we would agree with the recommendation of the Court's probation officer that voluntary surrender would be appropriate in this matter.

THE COURT: Anything further that the Government wants to offer on that matter?

MS. SCHWARTZ: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

1 Anything further, Mr. Wills, from the defendant on that matter? 2 MR. MARK WILLS: No, Your Honor. 3 THE COURT: All right. 4 5 MR. MARK WILLS: We do request that, that he be 6 allowed to voluntarily surrender. He poses no risk. 7 THE COURT: I find, given his conduct throughout 8 the proceedings in this matter, that he should be allowed to 9 surrender voluntarily. I find that he has, by his conduct, offered clear and convincing evidence that he's not likely 10 to flee and is not likely to pose a danger to any other 11 12 person or to the community if released. Accordingly, I order that Mr. Wills be permitted to 13 surrender voluntarily at the institution designated by the 14 15 Bureau of Prisons as notified by the United States Marshal. 16 The defendant shall remain released upon the previously 17 executed surety bond in the amount of \$10,000 subject to the conditions set forth in the order setting conditions of 18 19 release previously entered in this case. How much time, counsel, is he -- or are you making a 20 21 request for him to voluntarily surrender? 22 MR. MARK WILLS: Your Honor, we have, of course, discussed this with Mr. Wills. I mean, he's ready to go 23 24 whenever the prison is ready. So, --

25 THE COURT: All right. I want to also address the

issue of a fine which I'm told that I have neglected to do,
counsel.

Any comment that you want to make in that regard?

MR. MARK WILLS: Your Honor, of course we would
request that he not be fined. When he does get out of

request that he not be fined. When he does get out of prison, he does want to seek treatment. He wants to get his life back in order. As I indicated to the Court, the treatment facility in Williamsburg is a cost of \$40,000. So, we'd ask the Court not to impose any additional fine.

THE COURT: Any position that the Government wants to take with respect to the fine?

MS. SCHWARTZ: No position from the United States, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. It's my finding, based on my review of the pre-sentence report, and given his current situation, that he does not have the resources to pay a fine. And I am, therefore, going to order that no fine be imposed, counsel.

MR. MARK WILLS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Anything further before we conclude the hearing here today from either of you?

MS. SCHWARTZ: No, Your Honor.

MR. MARK WILLS: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

Mr. Wills, I -- there are some in this courtroom who

PENGAD • 1-800-631-6989 •

LASER BOND FORM A

may not agree with this. I consider you to be a relatively young man who still has some life ahead of you. I hope that with some treatment and what's happened here today that you'll be able to put this behind you and get on with life afterwards.

I think a period of supervised release, quite frankly, will be of some assistance to you in doing that and in your effort to do it. I don't know of any reason why after you close this chapter you can't get back to who I'm told by the people who wrote on your behalf, the life that you were leading prior to this issue happening. I wish you the best, sir.

THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

THE COURT: Anything further?

MS. SCHWARTZ: No, Your Honor.

MR. MARK WILLS: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. You-all have a good day.

Oh, I am sorry. I saw this and I didn't say it to you.

I'm sure your counsel has advised you, Mr. Wills, but before I go, I want to remind you of two more things regarding your voluntary surrender.

And, that is, first, if you knowingly fail to report as ordered, I can impose an additional sentence upon you up to two years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Second, if you commit any offense whatsoever before

your voluntary surrender date, then in addition to this sentence and in addition to any sentence for that offense, I would be required to impose an additional sentence.

If the offense you commit is a felony, I must sentence you to an additional term of imprisonment of up to 10 years. If the offense you commit is a misdemeanor, I must sentence you to an additional term of imprisonment of up to a year. These sentences would run consecutively with each other as opposed to running concurrently.

Do you understand that, sir?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Good luck to you.

(Proceedings concluded at 2:40 p.m.)

PENGAD • 1-800-631-6869 • www.pengad.

I, Lisa A. Cook, Official Reporter of the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

s\Lisa A. Cook

January 14, 2010

Reporter

Date

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Case Number: 1:09-CR-00159-01

V.

USM Number: 08678-088

Defendant's Attorney: Mark E. Wills &

William B. Flanigan

DANNY RAY WILLS

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

THE	DEFE	ND/	٩N	IT	•

X	pleaded guilty	to Count One	of a single-count	Information.
---	----------------	--------------	-------------------	--------------

pleaded nolo contendere to count(s) which was accepted by the court.

was found guilty on count(s) _____ after a plea of not guilty.

The defendant is adjudicated guilty of these offenses:

Title & Section	Nature of Offense	Offense Ended	Count
	acquiring and obtaining possession of a quantity of hydrocodone by misrepresentation, fraud, deception and subterfuge	May 5, 2009	One

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 6 of this judgment.

a	The defendant has been found not guilty on count(s)	<u></u> .
---	---	-----------

	Count(s)	is(are) dismissed on the motion of the United States.
<u>u</u>	Comina)	is(aic) distillance on the motion of the children

It is ORDERED that the defendant must notify the United States Attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant must notify the court and the United States Attorney of material changes in economic circumstances.

Date of Imposition of Judgment: December 17, 2009

Date Signed: January 5, 2010

JAN - 7 2010

TERESA L. DETPNER, CLERK
U.S. District Court
Southern District of West Virginia
By Deputy

ÍRENE C. BERGER, JÚD**Ú**E UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXHIBIT 3

IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of 6 months.

O	The court RECOMMENDS the following to the Bu	reau of Prisons:		
0	The defendant is remanded to the custody of the Uni	ited States Marshal.		
	The defendant shall surrender to the United States M	farshal for this district by 1:00 p.m. on		
a	The defendant shall surrender to the United States M	arshal for this district as notified by the United States Marshal.		
-	The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons by 1:00 p.m. on			
x	The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons as notified by the United States Marshal.			
	The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons as noti by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.			
	RE7	TURN		
I have	e executed this judgment as follows:			
	Defendant delivered	to		
a	, with a certified cop	y of this judgment.		
		United States Marshal		
		By Deputy United States Marshal		

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be on supervised release for a term of 1 year.

The defendant must report to the probation office in the district to which the defendant is released within 72 hours of release from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

The defendant shall not commit another federal, state or local crime.

The defendant shall not unlawfully possess a controlled substance. The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. The defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court.

Check if applicable:

- The above drug testing condition is suspended based on the court's determination that the defendant poses a low risk of future substance abuse.
- X The defendant shall not possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or any other dangerous weapon.
- X The defendant shall cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer.
- The defendant shall register with the state sex offender registration agency in the state where the defendant resides, works, or is a student, as directed by the probation officer.
- The defendant shall participate in an approved program for domestic violence.

If this judgment imposes a fine or restitution, it is a condition of supervised release that the defendant pay in accordance with the Schedule of Payments page of this judgment.

The defendant must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any additional conditions on the attached page.

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

- 1) the defendant shall not leave the judicial district without the permission of the court or probation officer;
- 2) the defendant shall report to the probation officer and shall submit a truthful and complete written report within the first five days of each month;
- 3) the defendant shall answer truthfully all inquiries by the probation officer and follow the instructions of the probation officer;
- 4) the defendant shall support his or her dependents and meet other family responsibilities;
- the defendant shall work regularly at a lawful occupation, unless excused by the probation officer for schooling, training, or other acceptance reasons;
- 6) the defendant shall notify the probation officer at least ten days prior to any change in residence or employment;
- the defendant shall refrain from excessive use of alcohol and shall not purchase, possess, use, distribute, or administer any controlled substance or any paraphernalia related to any controlled substances, except as prescribed by a physician;
- 8) the defendant shall not frequent places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered;
- the defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony, unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer;
- the defendant shall permit a probation officer to visit him or her at any time at home or elsewhere and shall permit confiscation of any contraband observed in plain view of the probation officer;
- the defendant shall notify the probation officer within seventy-two hours of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer;
- the defendant shall not enter into any agreement or act as an informer or a special agent of a law enforcement agency without the permission of the court; and
- as directed by the probation officer, the defendant shall notify third parties of risks that may be occasioned by the defendant's criminal record or personal history or characteristics and shall permit the probation officer to make such notifications and to confirm the defendant's compliance with such notification requirement.

ADDITIONAL STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

While on supervised release, the defendant must not commit another federal, state, or local crime, must not possess a firearm or other dangerous device, and must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance. The defendant must also comply with the standard terms and conditions of supervised release as recommended by the United States Sentencing Commission and as adopted by the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, including the special condition that the defendant shall participate in a program of testing, counseling, and treatment for drug and alcohol abuse as directed by the probation officer, until such time as the defendant is released from the program by the probation officer.

CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES

The defendant must pay the total criminal monetary penalties as set out on the Schedule of Payments page.

		Assessment	Fine	e	Restitution
TOTALS: \$100.00		\$100.00	\$0.0	00	\$863.54
<u> </u>	The defendant must melow. If the defendant make specified otherwise in	ermination. nake restitution (includ es a partial payment, ea	ing communit ich payee shall percentage pay	y restitution) to the follow receive an approximately ment column below. Ho	ring payees in the amount listed proportioned payment, unless wever, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §
Nan	ne of Payee		Total Loss*	Restitution Order	red Priority or Percentage
Mer	cer County Commission		\$863.54	\$863.54	
		•			
					"
ТОТ	rals:		\$863.54	\$863.54	
<u> </u>	The defendant must p	h day after the date of the	on and a fine of he judgment, p	f more than \$2,500, unless ursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3612 I default, pursuant to 18 U	the restitution or fine is paid in 2(f). All of the payment options S.S.C. § 3612(g).
0	The court determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that the interes requirement is waived for the fine.				
	The court determined requirement is waive	I that the defendant do	es not have the	e ability to pay interest ar	nd it is ordered that the interest
	The court determined	I that the defendant do	es not have th	e ability to pay interest ar	nd it is ordered that the interest
-	requirement for the fine is modified as follows: The court determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that the interest requirement for the restitution is modified as follows:				

*Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Having	g assessed the defendant's ability to pay, payment of the total criminal monetary penalties are due as follows:
۵	Lump sum payment of \$ due immediately, balance due no later than
	Lump sum payment of \$ due immediately, balance due as set forth below:
X	Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties: Both the \$100.00 special assessment an the \$863.54 restitution have been paid in full.
is due	s the court expressly ordered otherwise, if this judgment imposes imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penaltic during imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalties, except those payments made through the Federal Bureau of is' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, are made to the clerk of the court.
The de	efendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.
<u> </u>	Joint and Several Defendant and Co-Defendant Names and Case Numbers (including defendant number), Total Amount, Joint an Several Amount, and corresponding payee, if appropriate.
0	The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.
۵	The defendant shall pay the following court cost(s):
□ €	The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States:
	ents shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) fine pal, (5) fine interest, (6) community restitution, (7) penalties, and (8) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Deborah Lewis Rodecker, General Counsel for the West Virginia Board of Medicine, do
hereby certify that I have served the foregoing ORDER OF REVOCATION OF LICENSE TO PRACTICE
MEDICINE AND SURGERY by placing a copy in the United States mail, certified, postage prepaid, on
March 8, 2010, addressed as follows to Dr. Wills and his counsel of record:

Danny Ray Wills, M.D. 330 Oakvale Road Princeton, WV 24740

Mr. Mark E. Wills Wills Law Office 1617 North Walker Street Princeton, WV 24740

Deborah Lewis Rodecker

West Virginia State Bar # 3144

West Virginia Board of Medicine

101 Dee Drive, Suite 103

Charleston, West Virginia 25311

304.558.2821 ext. 214